GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2543
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2002
RESERVES OF HEAVY MINERALS IN COASTAL AREAS
BHUMA NAGI REDDY;P.D. ELANGOVAN

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coastal areas particularly in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Kerala have huge reserves of heavy minerals;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether the heavy minerals found in Indian Coastal Sands are utilised only for indigenous purposes or exported or utilized for both; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINIST OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE)

(a) & (b) Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a constituent Unit under the Department of Atomic Energy has carried out, over the last five decades, survey, exploration and evaluation of heavy minerals such as ilmenite, rutile, zircon, monazite etc. which occur as loose sands along the coastal tracts of the country. The state-wise distribution of these minerals is as follows :

(Reserves in Million Tonnes)

State	Ilmentite	Rutile	Zircon	Monazite	Garnet	Sillimanite
Kerala	95.51	6.61	6.45	1.35	1.19	39.07
Tamil Nadu	97.91	4.82	8.35	1.73	24.38	21.09
Andhra Pradesh	100.10	4.42	4.43	2.29	48.99	47.02
Orissa	45.05	1.88	1.44	1.18	32.61	21.23

(c) & (d) The minerals like ilmenite, rutile, zircon, sillimanite and garnet recovered from the beach sands have a variety of applications in different industries like paint, foundry, welding electrodes, calandria/coolant tubes and fuel tubes in nuclear reactors, abrasives, etc. both in the domestic and international markets.